United Nations ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2018/4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 March 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fifty-sixth session
Geneva, 22–25 May 2018
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan

Proposed revised mandates of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

Proposal by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review

Summary

In accordance with its mandate, the Working Group on Strategies and Review under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution is tasked to "prepare proposals for any strategic development under the Convention for consideration by the Executive Body" (ECE/EB.AIR/68, annex III, para. 11).

With the aim to continue to align the work of the Working Group on Strategies and Review with the strategic priorities under the Convention and taking into consideration the policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (see ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3/Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4), the Chair of the Working Group decided to review and revise the mandates of its two subsidiary bodies: the Task Force on Techno-economic issues and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen. This proposed revision should be seen in conjunction with the ongoing revision of mandates for the other scientific and technical task forces and centres under the Convention.

The present document contains a proposal for revised mandates of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen. It was compiled by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review with support from the secretariat based on the input provided by the task forces.

GE.18-03820(E)

1803820

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. At its twenty-fifth session (Geneva, 10–13 December 2007), the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution established the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1, decision 2007/1). In line with Executive Body decision 2014/3 (see ECE/EB.AIR/127/Add.1), Denmark took over the leadership of the Task Force. The Task Force draws on the expertise of its expert panels, currently including the Expert Panel on Mitigating Agricultural Nitrogen, the Expert Panel on Nitrogen Budgets, the Expert Panel on Nitrogen and Food and the Expert Panel on Nitrogen in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

2. At its thirty-third session (Geneva, 8–11 December 2014), the Executive Body for the Convention adopted decision 2014/2 (see ECE/EB.AIR/127/Add.1), upgrading the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues to the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues. The Task Force is led by France and Italy with technical support provided by the Interprofessional Technical Centre for Studies on Air Pollution and the French-German Institute for Environmental Research.

3. At the initiative of the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, it is proposed to revise the mandates of the task forces in order to ensure they remain consistent with the new strategic priorities under the Convention and the policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (see ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1). This revision is done in conjunction with the revision of the mandates for scientific task forces and centres under the Convention, which will aid in streamlining the biennial workplans for the Convention. Whereas the key objectives and functions of the task forces are reflected in their core mandates below, additional activities or specific activities envisaged for implementation within a short period, and not adequately covered by their core mandates, should be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention.

4. The present document was compiled by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review with support of the secretariat based on the inputs provided by the task forces.

A. Proposed revised mandate of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues

5. The Task Force on Techno-economic Issues shall perform the following functions and tasks as part of its core mandate in examining emissions abatement technologies for stationary and mobile sources and other tasks requested by the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution or by the Working Group on Strategies and Review, subject to availability of adequate financial and human resources:

(a) Update and assess on a regular basis the information on emission abatement technologies for the reduction of the atmospheric emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic pollutants, dust (including coarse and fine particulate matter and black carbon), heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants from stationary and mobile sources, including the costs of these technologies;

(b) Create and maintain a regional clearing house of control technology information for emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic pollutants, dust (including coarse and fine particulate matter and black carbon), heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants with the aim of being a place of reference for the dissemination of information to the experts of the Parties;

(c) Develop techno-economic data for estimating the costs of implementation of best available technologies and compliance with requirements of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone in different sectors, and promote such tools, especially in the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(d) Cooperate with the other technical bodies of the Convention, in particular the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, to create synergies, maximize results and optimize resources when performing its tasks. In particular, collect and provide data for inclusion in the Greenhouse Gas – Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies (GAINS) model, as appropriate and timely, in cooperation with the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling and other institutions and organizations;

(e) Cooperate with technical bodies outside the Convention as needed;

(f) Cooperate with the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with the purpose of providing techno-scientific assistance to those countries;

(g) Organize seminars and workshops for the dissemination and promotion of information on abatement technologies, such as the guidance documents on best available techniques and technical annexes to the protocols to the Convention;

(h) Provide assistance to the Implementation Committee as requested;

(i) Carry out other tasks that the Executive Body may assign to it in the biennial workplan;

(j) Organize the annual meeting of the Task Force to exchange information on techno-economic issue and network, discuss and update its workplan;

(k) Report on the progress in its work to the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

B. Proposed revised mandate of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

6. The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen shall perform the following tasks and functions as part of its core mandate with the aim of developing technical and scientific information and emissions abatement options on nitrogen in the context of the nitrogen cycle, as well as other tasks requested by the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution or by the Working Group on Strategies and Review, subject to the availability of adequate financial and human resources:

(a) Plan and conduct, in collaboration with subsidiary bodies under the Convention, the technical work necessary to develop a better understanding of the integrated, multi-pollutant nature of reactive nitrogen, particularly in relation to air pollution in the context of the nitrogen cycle for consideration in the work of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

(b) Investigate synergies and trade-offs between air pollution, climate and nature policies as well as synergies between local and international policy measures and their effects;

(c) Plan and conduct, in collaboration with subsidiary bodies under the Convention, the technical work necessary to assess emissions, transport, budgets, fluxes and effects of nitrogen for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review. In particular, provide technical information on nitrogen budgets and the effects of human diets on nitrogen use and emissions and associated synergies between environment, agriculture,

health and diet. Provide nitrogen-use indicators related to multiple indicators of environmental quality, including water quality;

(d) Cooperate and maximize synergies with other bodies under the Convention, in particular the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and the Task Force on Modelling and Mapping, as well as with other international bodies;

(e) Update, as necessary, the guidance document on preventing and abating ammonia emissions from agricultural sources (ECE/EB.AIR/120) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions (ECE/EB.AIR/129), and contribute to the improvements of the methodologies for emission inventories and other activities as required. Disseminate the Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions and related publications and support national focal points in its implementation;

(f) Carry out other tasks that the Executive Body may assign to it in the biennial workplan;

(g) Provide support to the Implementation Committee, in coordination with other relevant bodies, in particular, the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues;

(h) Report on the progress in its work to the Working Group on Strategies and Review, also keeping the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe informed of its activities.